

Minutes

JUDICIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 25, 2008

Court of Appeals - Conference Room A

1:15 - 3:15 p.m.

Members in attendance: John Rader (chair); Robyn Moberly; Susan Orth; Mary Willis; Barbara Harcourt; Jack Tandy, Sherry Biddinger Gregg; Darrin Dolehanty; and Ted Boehm.

Staff: Cathy Springer, Vicki Davis and Anne Jordan.

1. **Approval of Minutes from the October Committee Meeting.** The minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **Review of Previous Conferences.**
 - a. **Domestic Relations Workshop.** This two day workshop held on November 15-16 focused on “Patterns of Domestic Violence and the Implications for Child Custody.” Faculty included Mindy Mitnick, a child psychologist and Nancy Ver Steegh, a law professor from William Mitchell College of Law, Minneapolis, MN. There were 52 judges in attendance and the program was well-received.
 - b. **Winter Conference.** On December 7th, the Judicial Center hosted a 4 hour constitutional law program with Professor Michael Klarman from the University of Virginia. One hundred seventy seven (177) judicial officers were in attendance listening to Professor Klarman’s presentation on six “constitutional classic” cases. Members of the Indiana Supreme Court participated in the program as well. Conference participants received a copy of Professor Klarman’s latest book *Unfinished Business: Racial Equality in American History*. Even with one primary speaker, the program was interactive, and conference evaluation marks were very high. Those in attendance appeared to enjoy this “out-of-the-ordinary” bigger picture seminar.
 - c. **Indiana Summit on Children.** This one day collaborative conference funded by Court Improvement Program monies was held on December 14th at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Judges were asked to assemble a team of stakeholders to collaborate on issues impacting children in the court system. Over three hundred (300) people attended the program including fifty-five (55) judges. Judge Loretta Rush served as the chair of the program committee.
3. **Discussion of Upcoming Conferences.**
 - a. **Spring Judicial College.** Staff distributed and reviewed the programs planned for the Spring Judicial College, April 16-18th. The committee discussed the

foreclosure program and suggested pairing the law professor with one or two attorneys who specialize in foreclosure actions. The program on self-represented litigants will feature materials from a model curriculum developed by the Self-Represented Litigation Network, the National Judicial College, the National Center for State Courts, and the American Judicature Society. Mark Carey will be returning to Indiana to conduct a follow-up presentation on using evidence based practices in offender sentencing. Retired Judge Charles Schudson will be serving as faculty for the Law and Literature program. The committee suggested using Marvin Mitchell or Gregory Zubeck as faculty for the Eminent Domain/Land Usage program. John Rader reported that he had contacted Kimble Richardson, M.S. from the St. Vincent Stress Center and enlisted his assistance for an early bird program on stress/judicial balance.

- b. **Graduate Program for Indiana Judges.** Staff reported the Graduate Program is starting its sixth new class. The first year will be held June 1-6 at the Brown County Inn in Nashville. Approximately 150 judicial officers have gone through the Graduate Program so far.
 - c. **Annual Meeting of Juvenile Court Judges.** The first day of this year's annual meeting will be a collaborative conference with child welfare stakeholders; the second day will be the more traditional annual meeting with juvenile court judicial officers only, covering legislative and case law updates. The conference is scheduled for June 19-20. The location has not been determined as of yet.
 - d. **Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana.** Due to the city-wide MotoCross GP event, the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana will be held on September 9-11 (Tuesday through Thursday) at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis. The Committee decided to have early bird education sessions on Tuesday morning anyway. The annual reception/dinner will be held on Wednesday evening due to a prior contract with the Indiana Roof. The Committee brainstormed ideas for session topics: PCR update, contempt procedures, drafting good findings and conclusions in domestic relations cases, custody and parenting time orders; aging/elder care issues; ethics sessions including the new Code of Judicial Conduct if adopted by the Indiana Supreme Court. Staff reported that JLAP will be participating in the District Meetings this March.
 - e. **Pre-Bench Orientation.** The Committee discussed the timing of the Pre-Bench Orientation and the need to get information about employment/personnel issues out sooner to judicial candidates. A suggestion was made to have STAD distribute a one-page information sheet on employment law to candidates when they file for candidacy and to post the information on the web-site.
 - f. **Winter Conference.** Staff asked the Committee to begin thinking about ideas for the one day Winter Conference scheduled for Friday, December 12.
4. **Review of 2007 Judicial Education Curriculum Grid.** Staff distributed and the Committee briefly reviewed the curriculum grid from 2007 which showed the breakdown of all 2007 education programs into the 5 categories of legal ability (40-50%); judicial skill (25-30%); and personal growth and development, contemporary/interdisciplinary, and judicial responsibility (combined 25-30%). John

Rader asked the Committee members to consider whether we need to change any of the percentage goals for the categories.

5. **Additional Items for Discussion.**

- a. **Update on JOSIE and New Judicial Officers.** Barbara Harcourt reported she had received a response from quite a number of judges offering to sponsor judges in their court, but not many who expressed an interest going to another court to observe. A suggestion was made to send out the list of host volunteers which would let our clientele know who has offered to host another judge. The Committee briefly discussed the New Judge “Judicial Outreach” Program (swat team). Mary Willis created a form that could be used by a new judge to get assistance in areas he/she is not familiar with either from the mentor judge or a team of judges.
- b. **Court Personnel Training.** Staff reported the Judicial Center has money in the budget to hire a person to head up court personnel training. The plan is to hire someone soon. Staff mentioned the possibility of bringing in a consultant from the National Center for State Court to assist the Judicial Center in focusing its efforts in regards to implementation of court employee training/education. Barbara Harcourt and Darrin Dolehanty volunteered to meet with the NCSC consultant along with representatives from the Judicial Center and the Division of State Court Administration.

6. **Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 14 from 1:15-3:00 p.m. This meeting will be held at 30 South Meridian Street, 8th Floor Conference Center, Room 803.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Davis
Assistant Education Director